

TS 1025

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McCOMBER

ON

BOOTS AND SHOES,

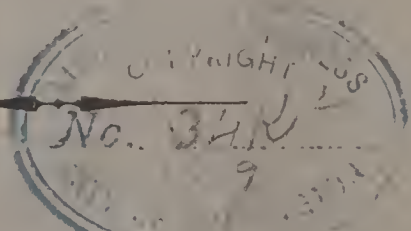
AND THE

HEALTH AND COMFORT THEY SHOULD IMPART.

*SHOWING WHAT KIND OF SHOES FIT BEST,
WHAT KIND OF LEATHER WEARS
AND LOOKS BEST.*

BY JOEL McCOMBER,

INVENTOR AND MANUFACTURER OF McCOMBER'S PATENT
BOOTS AND SHOES AND PATENT LASTS.



52 EAST 10TH STREET, NEW YORK.

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TS 1025
M188

DIED OF THIN SOLES.

The above line might truthfully be engraved on thousands of tombstones. There is no question but that the terrible disease, consumption, which has swept from our Northern States so many valuable lives, has found a most potent ally in the mistaken methods of the shoemaker. Thin soles have been demanded, worn, and commended, because of the pain attendant upon breaking in heavy shoes, when constructed in the ordinary way, without reference to the anatomy of the foot. But with shoes scientifically constructed, perfectly moulded to the feet, so that the interior space is accurately apportioned to the prominences and depressions of the delicate structure, the perfect adaptation maintaining, when in use, the relative positions of the sole and the upper when walking as well as when in repose — the process of breaking in is unknown. It is never a question of where the shoe pinches, because it does not pinch at all. This being the case, thick soles and thick shoes are just as easy to the feet as thin. There can be nothing uncomfortable, because they fit—because there is no excessive pinching or cramping of any part, but perfect comfort in thick shoes from the first hour

of wearing them. The many painful and fatal diseases which come from exposure of the feet to snow, water, and cold pavements, and damp walks, and chilly draughts, are ended. The vessels of the lower extremities are not compressed, the feet are kept dry and warm, the blood circulates freely to and fro through them, and is perpetually conveyed back to be warmed by the oxygen received into the lungs from the atmosphere. Comfort for the feet, and health for the whole body are assured through my boots and shoes of perfect material and scientific construction.



THE CORN DOCTOR DISMISSED.

Corn doctors will live and thrive while ignorant shoemakers exist. For persons provided with boots and shoes by me they are entirely useless. That they do manage by paring, and soaking, and plasters and lotions, to temporarily relieve the pain caused by the Chinese method of shoeing which shoemakers practice the world over, is true, but they never effect a cure. They will find abundant employment so long as shoemakers practice their barbarities upon suffering humanity. They are the sharks that follow the misguided craft of shoemakerdom, and prey upon its victims. They have neither science nor skill, nor conscience. They extort enormous sums of money in vain efforts to palliate that which would never exist were it not for the ignorance and inhumanity of shoemakers. With the increasing

intelligence of the people, the demand will arise for the education of shoemakers and last makers. As they learn something of the anatomy and needs of the wonderful structure which they are called upon to clothe, the corn doctors will disappear because there will be no corns to doctor. All the distortions and painful protuberances of the feet are caused by unnatural and distorting foot clothing. Thousands of persons suffer from, and are expensively doctored for, what are called gouty and rheumatic disorders of the feet, which are induced solely by the fearful pressure of leather unscientifically applied. The thumb-screw of the Inquisition was not more absolute in its power to inflict pain, than are the miserable leather compresses, called boots and shoes. The absolute remedy for all the aches and pains and distortions of the feet, for the abnormal growths called corns, and bunions, and ingrowing nails, and gouty enlargements, and callosities, and painfully enlarged joints, is not the remedy of the corn doctor, the cure is not an ointment, a lotion, nor a plaster. It is not palliative nor temporary; it is radical and permanent. It is not my cure, it is nature, for nature is ever kindly and helpful when permitted to exercise her benevolent purposes. Thus for all the ills which feet have been made heir to, I have described in a thousand ways in my books and pamphlets as well as verbally to the multitude who call upon me. It is simply to give nature a chance. The method

employed is mine, the same which I have practiced for ten years, for which letters patent were issued to me, and which I alone of all the shoemakers in the world apply. Nature's method has never failed, and never can. That it ruins the corn doctor's trade is clear to all my patrons, as well as to physicians who investigate the facts. So evident is it even to many shoemakers and storekeepers who keep shoes on sale, that they fraudulently claim to make, and keep, and sell the McComber boots and shoes and lasts. The pretense is entirely unfounded, but it shows the esteem in which the intelligent public are known to hold the goods made by me. No stronger testimony to the superiority of my boots and shoes can be given than the fact that multitudes of dealers dishonestly claim to supply them. NOT ONE of the individuals who advertise to make and sell the McComber patent last has the right to do so. It is all a sham, a pretense, and a fraud, but it shows that these shrewd shopkeepers understand its value, and the high esteem in which it is held by the best classes.

RIVETED SHOES.

In these hard times, when economy is a duty, and, with many, a necessity, it is proper for artisans in all departments to provide at moderate cost, the articles in daily use. With this thought uppermost, I have devised a system, and am now

making a class of boots and shoes, by attaching the soles with brass rivets, by which the cost is materially lessened, without lessening the wearing qualities. The goods that I construct on this plan are furnished at about half the cost. They are in no sense slop-work, and must not be compared with machine-made goods, being produced entirely by hand. They are valuable and inexpensive substitutes for my hand-sewed boots and shoes, when worn by active boys and girls, who are particularly "hard on shoe-leather," as well as for farmers, mechanics, servants, and laborers, who seek comfort, cheapness, elegance, and durability.

In making my low-priced shoes, as well as my more expensive hand-made sewed ones, I supply special lasts to fit the feet in each case, without extra cost. I do not now sell lasts, because I can not trust even the best shoemakers to make on my lasts. I have tried in vain to educate the ignorant shoemakers of the country up to some knowledge of my improved system. I give it up, and decide that they must stick to their old monstrous last, and continue to crucify humanity in the barbarous old way.

For normal, undistorted feet, especially those of boys, misses, and children, I shall endeavor to keep on hand a stock of low-priced boots and shoes, so that such customers can usually be perfectly fitted without delay.

McCOMBER'S KID.

FOR over a year past I have been using a new and valuable article of manufacture, which I designate McCOMBER'S KID. It is prepared by processes of my own, from the skin of the kid or young goat of a species found in the mountain regions of Switzerland. The strength, flexibility, and tenacity of the skin are not only not lessened, as is the case in the usual system of tanning the article called French kid, but are greatly increased by the methods employed.

The skin is subjected to a vegetable infusion, in contact with which it undergoes prolonged manipulation, by which the soluble gelatinous and albuminous constituents of the skin are rendered insoluble, imperishable, and indestructible; while at the same time the peculiar stiff and unyielding character common to the kid skins used in shoes is entirely overcome. In finishing the skins, the same care is exercised, not only for the conservation of their natural integrity, but for the increase of their ductility, and power of resistance to strain.

The chief effort of the tanner of French kid is to impart a bright gloss to his product. He secures this glaze by the use of heat and pressure,

just as the laundryman imparts a polish to linen. But the heat used by the leather-finisher is destructive of the integrity of the skin, and so greatly weakens it, that it readily cracks or breaks on being subjected to wear.

Little care is taken, ordinarily, to see that the coloring and dressing solutions or dyes, which are used to transform the outer surface of the skin into the densest black, have no destructive influence upon its texture and strength.

The dyes usually applied have an acid reaction, and are used *hot*, thereby weakening the skin.

French tanners use alum (sulphate of alumina) universally. The sulphuric acid or oil of vitriol of this mineral has the power to entirely destroy the integrity and strength of all animal fibers. It is not strange that French kids turn blue and crack and break and peel and become rough after slight wear, since the seeds of destruction are sown in every skin in the processes of manufacture.

In my kid the dye is a vegetable astringent infusion, which constricts and toughens instead of burning and weakening the animal fiber.

It is plain that animal fibers are certain to be weakened by exposure to caustic chemicals, or a baking temperature, and that excessive friction, by stretching and rubbing, will lessen the wearing capacity of kid or other skins.

In the French kid-tanning processes heretofore made use of, the leading thought seems to have been to complete the work as quickly as possible,

and to produce the most shiny leather, regardless of its durable qualities.

My effort has been to produce a cloth-like, flexible skin, having the characteristic softness of very fine doeskin cloth, as well as the most perfect qualities of quiet elegance and durability.

I have not sought to impart a *tawdry* shine at the expense of all qualities of excellence. The gloss given in finishing the McComber Kid is quiet, elegant, and durable. It does not soil or fade or become dim. It is not induced by destructive chemicals, by heat, or by friction. I say it is worse than folly to scorch and ruin the naturally tenacious grain or cuticle of the skin, by the destructive processes and applications which have been in use for a century or two, and which originated in a darker age, when the natural tensile strength of animal fibers was little understood, and when the destructive power of various chemical agents used in tanning, dyeing, dressing, etc., was comparatively a sealed book to the world.

There is still another point of superiority connected with my kid, the importance of which will be readily appreciated. The flesh side of the skin is not shaved, split, or dressed down to secure the desired uniformity of thickness. The skins are left of the thickness afforded by nature, some being naturally much thicker than others; and no loss of strength by loss of substance is permitted.

The ordinary method is to shave down the inner side of the large, thick skin of an older

animal, thus making it appear like the unsplit product of the young kid.

This shaving greatly lessens the durability and wearing power of the skin, because the toughness and capacity of resistance to strain, depends not a little upon the integrity of every portion of the structure, the interior tegumentary fibers not less than the denser exterior or grain. While I am able to produce the lightest and most delicate boots and shoes from my kid, I do not secure lightness by artificial means. I depend upon the youth and delicacy of the animal whose skin is selected. There are coarse and fine varieties of animals of the same species, and the skins differ as essentially as do any other features or characteristics. If the skin of a young kid is coarse and loose-fibered, I reject it. If a delicate, yet very strong article is desired, I use the skin of a finely-organized young goat or kid, but I never seek to imitate the softness and pliability inherent in the skin of the finest infant goat, by the common practice of splitting and weakening.

By assorting the skins, I am able to supply boots and shoes of any grade without resorting to the weakening methods of splitting or shaving.

It is safe to say that in finishing kid skins in the common way, more than half the strength is always taken away. A skin is a unit, and not a series of parts to be segregated without injury to the structure. Its entire fibers are perfectly interlaced, and to shave from either surface is to greatly lessen the durability of the skin. The

exterior of the skin is called the *cuticle*, the interior the *cutis*. Both are of like importance, not only for the strength of the skin, but for other equally important considerations. There is in all animal skins a nutritive oleaginous substance, which is held in place by this interior fibrous structure, the *cutis*. With this *cutis* removed the skin speedily dries up, and becomes hard and horny, and no longer capable of sustaining the strain and wear and tear of ordinary usage, being sure to crack. The difference between the McComber kid and the kid commonly used is exactly the same as between the best kid gloves and the cheaper kinds. The best young kid skins are cut into the best gloves without shaving or splitting. The poorer and older skins are shaved down, and used in cheap goods. Ladies know well that these shaved or split gloves tear readily, and speedily become lifeless and worthless. They may be heavier, but they are at the same time coarser and more loose and spongy.

I have been driven to devise new and better systems by the weakness and ready destructibility of all French kids. I know from experience, and thousands can testify that the McComber Kid will prove three times as durable as any heretofore used. While this kid is very flexible and pleasant to the foot, it does not stretch out of shape nor lose its symmetry after long wear. If my patrons will reflect upon the suggestions here

made, I believe they will agree with me that skins treated as described must be more lasting and useful than skins which have been weakened by corrosive agents and destructive processes. It is not hard to believe that this new kid will greatly outwear any other, and will be more comfortable and elegant while it lasts.

Ladies who have once tested the McComber Kid are certain to order it again, and to discard all other varieties. I do not, however, insist that this superior article be used; I keep on hand all kinds of kid skins, and make up such as are decided upon. It is gratifying to feel, however, that more than nineteen out of twenty select the McComber Kid. So far as temporary profit is concerned, it is by no means for my interest to advise the use of the McComber Kid, as it costs me from 15 to 50 per cent. more than the best French Kid manufactured. I however consider my interest the interest of my patrons, and am happy to recommend such methods and materials as shall increase the durability, and thereby lessen the cost, of the clothing for the feet which I provide.

THE McCOMBER
PATENT BOOTS AND SHOES
AND
PATENT LASTS.

BELIEVING that you wish full particulars concerning my Patent Boots, Shoes and Lasts, I desire to inform you that I have written and published a small volume of seventy-six pages, worth fifty cents, which sets forth at length the nature of this great improvement. This book I have been in the habit of mailing without charge to all applicants. That the distribution of many thousand copies of this work has been productive of great good I have abundant proof. It is undoubtedly true, however, that very many persons have asked for this book who have neither perused it attentively nor placed it in the hands of any person capable of appreciating the importance of the reform which is so fully illustrated in its pages. The book is too costly and too valuable to be wasted. I therefore send you this memorandum of its contents, in order that you may be able to determine whether your interest in the subject of which it treats is sufficient to induce you to peruse it further. If you decide in the affirmative, and are willing to read the book from beginning to end, you have but to inform me of that fact, and I will present you with a copy, and send it to you at my own cost. If you do not desire to pursue your investigation of the subject beyond the hasty glance afforded by this note, the

copy of my book which would be wasted upon you will serve to educate some intelligent sufferer up to a knowledge of the only means of relief for one of the direst ills which afflict humanity.

That the subject of which I treat will prove to be one of interest to you I cannot doubt. Clearly and unmistakably, it is one of enormous importance to every civilized being. Everybody prefers handsome feet, while not one in ten thousand possesses them. Everybody seeks comfort in foot-clothing, while not one in ten thousand enjoys it. It is because comfort and elegance are entirely compatible that I engage in this work. Upon the perfect union of beauty and ease—which is secured by my system, and by no other under the sun—is my great success based.

That you may form some idea of the character of my book, and be able to determine in advance whether you will pledge yourself to study its contents, I will briefly explain its methods: The "introduction," or preface, to my book occupies over four pages, and is devoted mainly to an explanation of my business system. It announces my removal from Union Square to my large store and manufactory, No. 52 East Tenth Street, and alludes to the advantages which I now enjoy for carrying on my large business under my immediate supervision in every department. It speaks of the quality of my work, and of the excellence of all materials used in my establishment. It is followed by three pages of carefully-written instructions for outlining and measuring feet, and the preparations of diagrams to be sent to me by mail, and from which, if accurate, I am able to construct my Patent Boots and Shoes and Patent Lasts in such

a manner as to ensure satisfaction and comfort. These instructions are simple, and readily comprehended. When understood, they can be followed by any intelligent person. Upon the care with which these directions are carried out will depend the perfection of the fit. Following the instructions, is a complete price-list of all conceivable styles of my Patent Boots and Shoes, in all the materials which I deem it proper to employ, and for all sizes of feet, from those of the tiny infant to those of adults, and for both sexes. In this extended list, which includes over eighty items, all purses and tastes are pretty certain to be met.

The list spoken of is followed by an address which I delivered before the Polytechnic Branch of the American Institute, on the evening of May 20th, 1875, at the Cooper Union, New York, by the request of the President of that organization. The lecture is entitled, "The Human Foot: Its Use, Abuse and Preservation." It is copiously illustrated with drawings and diagrams of natural and distorted feet, as well as of my Patent Lasts, from various points of view, and occupies thirty-two pages of the book. This paper discusses the old-time errors of the shoemaking fraternity, their utter ignorance of the delicately-organized human foot and its needs, and explains, in detail, a scientific method of remedying the fearful errors of past ages in this direction. It is illustrated with fifteen wood engravings, representing feet in a state of nature, and feet distorted by the use of boots and shoes as ordinarily constructed, and giving views of my Patent Lasts and Shoes made upon them. No one can carefully peruse these pages without acquiring much useful knowledge of the subject discussed,

nor without becoming fully convinced that by the adoption of a true system, based upon a knowledge of the anatomy of the human foot, that organ can be as delicately clothed, without enforced distortion, or injury, or suffering, as any portion of the body. The whole subject is made plain to the comprehension of all.

The next chapter of the book is entitled, "A Subject for Reflection." It is an earnest appeal to parents and all having the care of children to save them from that lifetime of deformity and misery which is the common lot of all human beings who are shod by the old unscientific method. It is impossible for me to urge too strongly the importance of a consideration of the thoughts contained in this portion of my work. I am strongly of the opinion that no subject is of greater importance than this, involving, as it does, the comfort, the health, the happiness, and, to a greater degree than is generally supposed, the mental and moral well-being of the rising generation. These points I consider at some length; and I am at a loss to see how fathers or mothers who read my words can fail to discover that they have an important duty to perform in this particular.

The discussion of this, perhaps the most important division of my subject—the infinite mental, moral and physical misery which is entailed upon the race through the viciousness of the clothing provided for the tender feet of children—is followed by a chapter descriptive of the True Purpose of the McComber Last and Shoe. In this portion of my book I seek to dissipate the idea that I am capable of performing miracles in the way of restoring distorted, diseased and broken-down feet. I

try to assert very plainly, that I cannot take a foot which has been racked and twisted in tender infancy and youth out of all symmetry and beauty, and restore it at once to elegance and comfort by the magic of my art. I say, distinctly, that I cannot speak into being, new and perfect feet in place of those distorted and diseased by long abuse and maltreatment. There is no power to instantly remedy all the evil effects of long-continued violation of nature's simplest laws. I claim no such wonderful power; but I can and do deprive the corn-doctor of his business and his stipend. I can and do give ease where misery has long existed.

But my work does not end when comfort is achieved. My leading thought in providing clothing for the universally-injured feet of adults is to gradually remedy, by appropriate means, existing errors and distortions, and thus to convert ugliness into beauty. The uniform, unavoidable result of clothing the foot for a considerable period by the ignorant plan in common use, is to make that member—so beautiful and useful when uninjured by misguided and vicious artifice—a horrid, misshapen, unsightly mass, the seat of deformity and disease, and often of little use in long-continued locomotion. This deformity is universal. The local misery may be severe or unappreciable, according to temperament, to the natural powers of resistance possessed by the tissues, and to the readiness with which the feet permit themselves to be crowded, wrenched and drawn into unnatural postures without complaint. Upon the tissues of some persons the wrenching processes may go on for years hardly noticed, so small is the susceptibility to pain. Pressure, ignorantly applied, often

blunts the sense of suffering by arresting circulation and depriving the nerves of sensibility. To overcome this semi-paralysis of the sensor and motor nerves, and to restore them to vital action and to a consciousness of wrongs inflicted, is the province of my art. But, while comfort is secured, the æsthetic taste must also be gratified, the love of the beautiful must be encouraged. The poor, deformed, distorted feet must be gradually restored to symmetry and beauty. In most cases this is by no means an impossible task. It is, as I have remarked, not the work of a day or an hour; but it can be done. Ladies who pride themselves upon the small size of their feet have characterized the power to sustain the broken and flattened arches, to hold together the spreading and sprawling phalanges, as the most marvellous attainment of my art. They wonder how it is that they can wear smaller shoes than ever before, and, at the same time, suffer no pain or discomfort. The explanation is easy. It has its answer in a single sentence, viz.: A knowledge of the anatomy of the foot. With me, the knowledge which I bring to bear on this subject is the knowledge of a lifetime. I have dissected the human foot, and know precisely where to apply pressure and where to withhold it. I have carefully studied its anatomy and its pathology. I know how to preserve it in all its original beauty, and how to apply such remedial measures as will restore it, sooner or later, when disfigured and distorted. Restoration is not, as I have said, the work of a moment; but there are few cases in which it is not possible, and not one in which the contour, comfort and usefulness of the foot may not be speedily and greatly

improved. Sensible people, therefore, who would unite in their foot-clothing the essentials which they naturally seek in garments for other portions of the body—viz., grace and ease and freedom of motion, great durability, elegance of design and perfection of fit, together with a daily and gradual improvement in the size and contour of the foot—will pursue their investigation of the subject with the earnestness which its importance merits. They will soon learn that anatomical knowledge is competent to determine precisely what pressure the foot should receive and at what points it may usefully be applied, in order to secure symmetrical and graceful results, instead of that growth in ugliness and distortion which is certain to result from pressure misapplied. It is a satisfaction to be able to state, that no attribute of my system is more highly lauded, from day to day, than is its power to beautify distorted feet and to lessen their ugliness.

So far as that pestilent creature—the corn-doctor—is concerned, I am doing my best to drive him from the face of the earth. He is as pitiful an excrescence upon society as are those which he pretends to remove. Under a proper system of foot-clothing, corns would be as uncommon upon the feet as they are now upon the elbows. A system so potent for evil as is that practiced by the shoemaker of the past and present would be driven from human sight by all the force of the State were it not for the power of the chiropodist to lessen the misery of the race, not by remedial measures, but by destroying sensibility to pain. Those corn-parers are deadly enemies of humanity, because they make the abominable boots and shoes

which ignorant men sell for reasonable foot-gear, almost enduring. They attempt to suspend the everlasting law of God, which declares that guilt brings punishment, that injustice entails woe and suffering. They do their best to lull to sleep heart and conscience, and to permit the terrible work of distortion and destruction to go on unchecked. They are the natural outgrowth of a wicked, false, perverted system—a system which can never be wholly uprooted until these wretched aiders and abettors are driven from the earth. When the day dawns upon which corn-doctors and corn-plasters are annihilated, and the poor, distorted, ruined feet, upon which the nations hobble painfully down the century, are allowed to suffer as they should, in order that the ignorant authors of their woes shall not be forgotten, relief will be near, because an outraged public, fully conscious of its ill-treatment, will not be long in visiting appropriate punishment upon the wretched shoemakers who scatter pain and ruin on every side.

Readers of my book will find the deceptions practiced by the shoemakers of the period barely hinted at. Since medical men, teachers, professors in medical colleges and public lecturers, have come to understand, through my public utterances, that the old system of barbarous foot-clothing, which touches no foot of child or adult which it does not torture, cripple and distort, is one of the most potent agencies for evil now extant, and that I have devised the only remedy, a host of unprincipled dealers in the wicked old shoes which have crippled so many generations, are asserting that they use the McComber Patent Last and supply the McComber Patent Boots and Shoes. Let me

say, with emphasis, that I cannot vouch for the honesty or the skill of this class of pretenders. There is no size or style of boot or shoe, for child or youth or adult, that I do not make, at prices as low as perfect articles can be supplied. There is, there can be, no possible economy in employing any of these dishonest and incompetent imitators, who piratically assume to employ my Patent Last, while existing in utter ignorance of its principles or its application to important and critical cases. There is but one sensible way, and that is to apply at headquarters, and to ignore the mushroom pretenders who periodically start up on every hand, the density of whose ignorance is so complete that they even fail to discover the miraculous burden of unenlightenment under which they stagger to and fro before the world.

If my book fails to make clear the fact that it costs nothing to consult me, to secure a critical examination of the feet, accompanied with advice as to their care, I desire to re-affirm it here. Crippled feet, club feet, distorted feet, and lame feet come to me daily for examination and advice, and all receive my best attention. The lame, the halt, the moderately deformed and the wretchedly crippled, not less than the strong and well-proportioned, are privileged to call and secure my advice, without money and without price.

Let me add that I have striven in my book to show the importance of preserving in its original beauty and symmetry the natural, unimpaired foot. If I have explained the possibility of restoring the maltreated and deformed, I have even more earnestly endeavored to impress upon all whose feet are as yet in fair condition, the vast advantage

which is certain to accrue from their preservation from all distorting and destroying agencies. To perfectly accomplish this, the preservative influences must commence in early life with the first pair of shoes—the first pair of stockings, in fact—which encase the tender feet. I seek to impress upon all thoughtful persons this great thought: that no remedial measures can be considered as at all approximating in value those preventive acts which my system so perfectly provides.

My little book concludes with many unsolicited testimonials from physicians and others who have worn boots and shoes made by me on my Patent Lasts, and who, one and all, testify to their beauty and their excellent qualities. These persons, many of whom are well known in public, professional and business life, append their names and their addresses, and would, no doubt, express more fully the satisfaction which they feel in being properly shod, if called upon.

I have thus given you a brief synopsis of the contents of my book. From this, I think, you will be able to determine whether the book will interest you—whether, in short, you are willing to pledge yourself to read it through from beginning to end, provided I send it to you at my own expense. If you cannot promise this, do not put me to the very considerable expense. If you are willing to so far pursue this important subject as to carefully read the book, and will notify me to that effect by mail, I will forward it without delay.

JOEL McCOMBER,
52 East Tenth Street, near Broadway,
NEW YORK CITY.

From GEORGE E. RANDOLPH, *General Agent*
Coal Mines.

CENTRAL CITY, COLORADO, *Jan. 23, 1877.*

JOEL MCCOMBER, Esq., New York.—*Dear Sir*: Both pairs of Shoes sent to me are very satisfactory. I am enjoying what I have not for years—that is, a well-fitting, perfectly comfortable shoe. My wife, Mrs. J. O. Reynolds, Mr. Harrington and Mr. Campbell are as well pleased as I am, and asked me to say so to you.

It is remarkable that all these Shoes should be so thoroughly satisfactory, inasmuch as we all took our own measures.

You may rely upon it that we shall want no other Shoes than yours. Yours respectfully,

G. E. RANDOLPH.

From the REV. DR. STEVENSON, *Editor of the Illustrated Christian Weekly of New York.*

WE usually let our advertising patrons tell their own story, and we do not even endorse what they say of their wares—that is a matter between them and our readers. But in the case of JOEL MCCOMBER'S Shoes we cannot but speak. We have tried them and know them to be the *ne plus ultra* in their line. MCCOMBER is a philosopher, a scientist, an anatomist, an expert in the shoe line. Let him measure, and gauge, and study your foot, and if he does not give you a new idea of a comfortable and serviceable shoe, then—well, just try him.

From EX-GOVERNOR BULLOCK, *of Mass.*

WORCESTER, MASS., *July 2d, 1877.*

I HAVE taken of MR. JOEL MCCOMBER'S manufacture many pairs of boots for myself and for members of my family, and I have found the same to give great satisfaction for durability, for the comfort of the wearer, and for best proofs of first-class workmanship in every particular. I give him the preference over all whose work I have ever tried.

ALEX. H. BULLOCK.



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From PROF. R. S. NEWTON
Med.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER
mist—rare and hitherto
dissected and studied the
precisely what each bone
and how surely ignorant shoemakers deform and cripple
the delicate structure.

He long ago convinced me that corns and distortions
are no more necessary to the feet than to the hands.
The McCOMBER Patent Boots made by him are in every
respect worthy to be called THE ONLY PERFECT CLOTH-
ING FOR THE FEET. ROBERT S. NEWTON, M.D.

[From *Scribner's Monthly*.]

NEW YORK, June 22, 1878.

MR. JOEL McCOMBER—*Dear Sir*: You are the *last*
man that I shall undertake to praise; for the product
of your *lasts* is above all praise. I scarcely ever knew
what it was to have my feet in perfect comfort until
you made my shoes; and since then, I have scarcely
known a moment of discomfort in those useful mem-
bers of the body, and besides all that, the effect upon
the health of having one's feet neither too hot nor too
cold; neither throbbing with pain, nor numbed with
cramp, as they are sure to be with ill-fitting shoes, is
very great. I am satisfied that many headaches, and
not a few heartaches, come from abuses of the feet. I
cannot understand how anybody could possibly com-
mit suicide with a pair of your shoes on his feet, for a
man has a new respect for himself when he walks erect
and with ease upon Mother Earth. I wish everybody
knew and appreciated the excellence of your work, as
all the members of my family do; and if this note will
help you in the least to bring customers to your shop,
you are at liberty to use it. Yours truly,

ROSSWELL SMITH.

P.S.—I advise everybody at least to take the trouble
to send for, and read your pamphlet.

LETTER FROM REV. DR. TWING.

22 BIBLE HOUSE, NEW YORK, Sept. 12, 1878.

JOEL McCOMBER, Esq., 52 East 10th Street, New York
—*Dear Sir*: For a period of more than three years I
have depended wholly on you for my boots and shoes,
and I have no hesitation in saying that I have never ex-
perienced so much satisfaction in the use of those of
any other maker as in that of yours. I have found
real comfort in wearing them, and have found them far
more enduring than any before worn by me.

A. T. TWING.